



FILE NO. 634-2025-A

Good morning,

Congratulations! On behalf of Ohio EPA Director Anne Vogel, we are pleased to inform you that your organization has been awarded a 2025 Recycle Ohio Grant.

The process for signing the grant contract will occur electronically, starting with an email sent to the Authorizing Official listed in your application. If the Authorizing Official or their email address has changed since your application was submitted, please contact me immediately at Marie.barnett@epa.ohio.gov. The Authorizing Official must have signatory authority within your organization.

In the next few days, the Authorizing Official will receive an email directing them to the One Span online platform, where they can sign the grant documents. Please note that some firewalls often direct these emails to junk, clutter, and spam email boxes. Please ensure that the Authorizing Official signs the grant agreement and completes the Ohio Department of Administrative Services Standard Affirmation Form by **April 15, 2025**.

****Grant Conditions:****

1. This award has been approved based on the activities and timeline proposed in your application. Grant funds cannot be used for expenses incurred outside the project scope.
2. The project may begin after April 1, 2025. No grant funds can be spent before this date.
3. The project deadline is March 31, 2026, for one-year projects (Source Reduction) and March 31, 2027, for two-year projects, including Academic Institutions, Community Litter, Market Development, and Scrap Tire Grants.
4. Upon project completion, a closeout report is required. This report must include copies of equipment receipts, proof of payments (such as checks, purchase orders, or credit card statements), and photos acknowledging EPA funding.
5. Failure to complete the closeout report, provide proof of payment, or submit copies of invoices will result in a cost recovery of the awarded funds.
6. The final report must be submitted electronically and is due on May 15, 2026, for one-year projects (Source Reduction) and May 15, 2027, for two-year projects (Academic Institution, Community Litter, Market Development, and Scrap Tire Grants).
7. An EPA press release and the virtual mandatory Ohio EPA Grant Award Meeting date will be issued soon.

Once again, congratulations on your award! We look forward to collaborating with you on your project.

Please take a moment to complete the following survey regarding your interaction with the Ohio EPA:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BTMHYVN>.

Please let me know if I can help you further.



Marie Barnett
Grants Administrator

Office of Environmental Innovation

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Government - Community and Litter

Grant Year: 2025

Date: 12/06/2024

Applicant Organization

The City of Cleveland
601 Lakeside Ave. , Rm 227
Cleveland, OH, 44114
34-6000646

Application Contact

Mr. Ren Brumfield
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Authorizing Official

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Project Contact

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Funding Request Details

Project Category	Project Grant Funds Requested	Match Funds Required	Total
Organic Material Diversion	\$14,120.00	\$3,530.00	\$17,650.00
Special Venue Recycling	\$31,200.00	\$7,800.00	\$39,000.00
Keep America Beautiful: Certification Fee	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00

Project Category	Project Grant Funds Requested	Match Funds Required	Total
Total	\$49,320.00	\$12,330.00	\$61,650.00

Budget Table Details

Category	Description	Grant Dollars	Match Dollars	Line Item Total
Equipment	Dual stream waste and recycling containers x18	\$31,200.00	\$7,800.00	\$39,000.00
Equipment	One-time fee for printing plates (pail branding) x2	\$360.00	\$90.00	\$450.00
KAB Fees	KAB Certification fee	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00
Supplies	Branded 2 gallon plastic pails and lids x3,000	\$6,560.00	\$1,640.00	\$8,200.00
Supplies	2 gallon compostable liner bags x150 cases	\$7,200.00	\$1,800.00	\$9,000.00
Total		\$49,320.00	\$12,330.00	\$61,650.00

Additional Match is: \$0.00

The applicant certifies that the total minimum required match funds for the application are available.

County	Ohio EPA Office	SWMD
Cuyahoga	NEDO	Cuyahoga

Targeted Materials

For the following project(s):

Organic Material Diversion

The targeted materials are:

Targeted Material	Food waste
Quantity in Tons	200
Percentage sourced in Ohio	100
Material Specifications	Food waste
Name of Primary Market	Rust Belt Riders
Primary Market City	Cleveland
Primary Market State	OHIO
Primary Market Country	UNITED STATES

Special Venue Recycling

The targeted materials are:

Targeted Material	Aluminum cans
Quantity in Tons	0.75
Percentage sourced in Ohio	100

Material Specifications	Aluminum
Name of Primary Market	Rumpke Recycling
Primary Market City	Columbus
Primary Market State	OHIO
Primary Market Country	UNITED STATES

Targeted Material	Plastic bottles
Quantity in Tons	0.7
Percentage sourced in Ohio	100
Material Specifications	Plastics #1, 2, 5
Name of Primary Market	Rumpke Recycling
Primary Market City	Columbus
Primary Market State	OHIO
Primary Market Country	UNITED STATES

Targeted Material	Plastic cups
Quantity in Tons	0.5
Percentage sourced in Ohio	100
Material Specifications	Plastic #5
Name of Primary Market	Rumpke Recycling
Primary Market City	Columbus
Primary Market State	OHIO
Primary Market Country	UNITED STATES

Material Sources

For the following project(s):

Organic Material Diversion

The material sources are:

Material Source	City	State
Residential population	Cleveland	OH

Special Venue Recycling

The material sources are:

Material Source	City	State
Cleveland Public Auditorium	Cleveland	OH

Open Recycle Ohio Grant(s)

The applicant does not have an open Recycle Ohio Grant(s).

Funding from other Grants

The applicant has not been awarded a Mosquito Control Grant (MCG) or an Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) grant in the past two years.

The applicant certifies that this project, if awarded, will not be implemented with funds in conjunction with the Mosquito Control Grant (MCG) or Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF).

Project Location Contact(s)

Ren Brumfield
500 Lakeside Ave
Cleveland, 44114

Narrative

Executive Summary

Provide an overview of the proposed project. This is your chance to sell your proposal! Please include the purpose and scope, job creation and retention, and the specific methods and technologies that will be incorporated to implement your project. Explain if the proposed activities/events are existing or new. If applicable, list the type(s) of scrap tires to be collected (passenger, light truck, semi-truck and/or agricultural). Please be aware text boxes do not allow for inserting graphics, documents, tables, or photos. You will have the opportunity to provide attachments, such as photos and tables, later in the application.

The City of Cleveland's original recycling program started in 2008. By 2020, the contamination rate had risen to at least 62% and the program collapsed. Recyclables went into the landfill. Street receptacles were removed from public areas. Residents became complacent.

In 2022, the city launched a new recycling education campaign, partnered with a new vendor, and was able to launch a new "opt-in" residential recycling program. Initial enrollment for the new program was about 27,000 of 150,000 eligible households. In subsequent years we have used ads on various media and in-person education to increase enrollment to its current level of nearly 78,000 households. Our contamination rate since restarting has averaged around 20%. As recycling is coming back to the status of being one of the "norms" of residential life, we are working to bring it back to public areas.

In addition to recycling, we are introducing residents of the city to other forms of waste reduction, starting with food waste composting. In 2025, the city will be partnering with a local composter to establish 10 food waste drop-off sites. The locations of these sites were chosen to be easily accessible to a high number of residents, and to provide easy access for residents who do not own a car.

Community engagement is key to building new enthusiasm in residents toward the city's waste reduction programs. Residents who become engaged in these programs bring good ideas and energy along with that enthusiasm. The Department of Public Works, as it functions on a day-to-day basis, does not provide a ready access point for them to contribute directly. The City of Cleveland is looking to establish a local affiliate of the "Keep America Beautiful" organization, through which we could engage local groups that are organizing litter cleanups, neighborhood beautification, and litter prevention education in a citywide organization that would allow their passion, skill, and productivity to benefit the city's population at-large.

Based on the narrative above, the City of Cleveland is proposing three projects that we would hope to get funded as a combination grant request through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's 2025 Community and Litter Grant.

The first project, "Public Auditorium Recycling", comes under the "Special Venue Recycling" category. Starting in the 2024-25 basketball season, the City of Cleveland's 102-year-old, multipurpose, performing arts/entertainment/sports venue, Public Auditorium, will host home games of the Cleveland Cavaliers' NBA G-League team, the Cleveland Charge. This building was not included in the reintroduction of recycling to the city at-large in 2022, and it lacks some of the infrastructure to encourage visitors and vendors to recycle properly. The city's own Division of Waste Collection currently collects trash from Public Auditorium and has the

capacity to collect recyclables this project would produce. OEPA grant money would be used to purchase 18 new dual-stream containers that will be placed in key locations available to visitors and vendors.

The second project, "Residential Drop-off Composting", is in the category of "Organic Material Diversion". It seeks to introduce food waste composting to Cleveland residents, with emphasis on inclusion of historically underserved areas of the city, on communities that are typically underrepresented in voluntary waste reduction programs, and on access for residents who do not own a car. The composting program is funded by a grant from the USDA (2024 CFWR). The USDA grant will cover costs for establishing the new sites and will pay a stipend to residents recruited to be Ambassadors for the program, who will help to educate their fellow residents. The USDA grant does not cover all expenses involved with transporting and processing this food waste after it has been dropped off. Residents who want to participate in the program will pay the vendor a \$12 monthly fee to cover those costs. The USDA grant will provide limited funds to pay this fee for up to 250 SNAP-eligible households. To further eliminate barriers to joining the program, the City of Cleveland will use OEPA grant funds to offer 3000 SNAP-eligible and non-SNAP-eligible households free compost pails and compostable liner bags as incentives. Enrollment based on sign-up events featuring these incentives will be tracked to determine the effectiveness of this approach. Recipients of these containers will be contacted after 90 days and asked to provide feedback on the program and ease of use of the containers. The data collected will determine future tactics.

The third project, "Keep Cleveland Beautiful", is in the category, "KAB Certification Fee". We would like to establish a "Keep Cleveland Beautiful" affiliate of the national "Keep America Beautiful" organization. The city would use grant funds to pay the KAB certification fee.

Budget Narrative

Provide a detailed description of budget line items and how they fit within the scope of your project. If it is necessary to include budget information from outside of the grant term, please indicate it will not be covered with grant funds.

The City of Cleveland is requesting a total amount of \$49,320.00 for this 1-year grant period. Funds will be used to support the three projects covered in this one application. Funds requested for the first two projects will be spent on equipment and supplies. Funds for the third project will be used to pay the certification fee to establish a local chapter of the Keep America Beautiful organization.

Project 1: Public Auditorium Recycling (Special Venue Recycling) \$39,000 total cost

1. Dual-stream waste and recycling containers: 2-compartment waste containers manufactured by Clean River Recycling Solutions, with a volume of 35 gallons per side, capable of separately collecting both trash and recycling. These will be strategically placed throughout the venue in food service areas, outside seating areas, on the main auditorium level, and near meeting rooms on the basement level. (\$39,000)

Project 2: Residential Drop-off Composting Initiative (Organic Material Diversion) \$17,650 total cost

1. Branded 2-gallon plastic pails: Plastic pails for composting. The smaller size is to make them easier for residents to transport to their nearest food waste drop-off area. Pails will be imprinted with logos (shown in attached file)

2. Reusable lids for 2-gallon pails: Lids are necessary to keep pests out and to keep odors in. (Pails + lids \$8,200)

3. Plastic Pail Branding Costs: The pail manufacturer, Argee Corporation, requires a one-time \$200 fee per color plate used and nonrefundable deposit of \$50 for branding PDF design. We

will be using two colors to incorporate the City's and Recycle Ohio's logos. (\$450)
4. Compostable liner bags: 1 roll of 25 liners to be given out with each pail to make the process of filling and emptying pails cleaner and easier. The compostable liners will be purchased from United States Plastic Corp at a cost of ~\$59 per case x 150 cases with consideration for shipping. (\$9,000)

Project 3: Keep Cleveland Beautiful (KAB Certification) \$5,000 total cost

1. KAB Certification: Payment for the Keep America Beautiful Certification fee. (\$5,000)

Timeline

Provide a list of activities and events including projected dates with years and the major milestones of grant expenditures. If it is necessary to include timeline information from outside of the grant term, please indicate it will not be covered with grant funds. (Reminder: grant or match funds may not be spent before April 1st of the funding year.)

Project 1 Public Auditorium Recycling:

March – April: Work with Division of Waste and Division of Property Management to coordinate pickup and collection of recyclables and to ensure smooth transition to Special Venue Recycling at Public Auditorium. Develop event information for Division of Public Auditorium/Special Events to distribute to clients. (not covered with grant funds)

April: Finalize purchase of waste/recycling receptacles and place in venue.

April-March '26: Record feedback from housekeeping staff, make adjustments as needed, record data on recyclables.

Project 2 Residential Drop-off Composting:

March-April: Coordinate with Office of Sustainability to engage residents (not covered with grant funds)

April: Finalize purchase of compost buckets and liners.

April – March '26: Attend community and ward meetings / other tabling opportunities to distribute compost kits and assist in enrolling residents.

Project 3 Keep Cleveland Beautiful:

April: Enroll as KAB Affiliate.

April-March '26: Establish Keep Cleveland Beautiful network and work towards President's Circle criteria

Readiness

What steps have you taken to prepare for this project? Examples include: a secured project location, permits and documentation, finalized quotes/invoices, business plan and route plan. If you are spending money outside of the grant cycle to prepare for your project, please describe (Reminder: grant or match funds may not be spent before April 1st of the funding year).

Many steps required to ready the City for Special Venue Recycling in Public Auditorium have been taken throughout the development of the project idea itself. Public Auditorium has the necessary systems in place for events and will have already completed the first regular season with Cleveland Charge prior to the start of the grant term and will thus be prepared for future seasons. A crew and truck have been identified to collect from Public Auditorium. We have established communication with the vendor Clean River Recycling Solutions which will be the point of purchase for the dual-stream containers with customizable specifications. The receptacle locations within the venue have been mapped out (see attached building floor plan) and necessary staff will be notified of them.

The City has maintained relationships with the offices and community partners leading the residential compost program such as the Community Development Corporations, Recreation

Centers, and compost partner Rust Belt Riders. Consistent planning and communication have allowed for the City to provide input on drop off locations and resident outreach. These partnerships will provide opportunities to engage with residents, conduct program signups, and distribute compost bins and liners.

Several Department of Public Works employees attended a Keep Ohio Beautiful Affiliate Information and Training session in Akron, OH in early October 2024. They received informative and inspiring stories from David Forsell (SVP of Affiliate Network & Programs and former President of Keep Indianapolis Beautiful). They also had the opportunity to connect with existing Ohio affiliates from Akron, Hudson, Brooklyn, Toledo & Youngstown and learn about programming and partnerships that have proven successful for their communities. The Department has existing relationships with neighborhood organizations and Community Development Corporations which may become partners of KCB.

Staff has discussed project plans for structuring Keep Cleveland Beautiful under the Department of Public Works. Similar to an existing body, the Urban Forestry Commission, KCB Commission would have authority to seek out and accept funds, make recommendations, develop programming, etc.

Project Impact

What is the area impacted by this project? Include your project's site of operation and/or service area (e.g. location for surveillance cameras, drop-off container locations, litter cleanup areas, paving locations, etc.). Who will benefit from this project? Include groups targeted by your project (e.g. community for tire amnesty, neighborhoods for recycling contamination tagging, conference audience, scrap tire generators and transporters, etc.).

Our Special Venue Recycling project, "Public Auditorium Recycling", will focus on the physical location of Cleveland Public Auditorium. It will impact residents from across the city, as they visit this venue to attend Cleveland Charge NBA G-League basketball games, public events, and trainings. The recycling and trash containers installed in this location will help them understand what items are acceptable for recycling at home, as well.

The Organic Material Diversion project, "Residential Drop-off Composting", will see city staff and Ambassadors hosting information and enrollment events at newly established composting drop-off sites and at events throughout the city, issuing out free composting equipment to residents who join the program. All residents of the city are eligible to join the composting program. Drop-off sites were chosen to be easily accessible by walking or using public transportation. There will be a specific focus on encouraging SNAP-eligible residents to participate. In this initial phase, the City of Cleveland will pay the vendor's monthly fee (\$12/mo) for 2 years, for up to 250 SNAP-eligible households.

The Keep America Beautiful project, "Keep Cleveland Beautiful", will establish an affiliate, a commission, based out of the city's Department of Public Works, that will engage Community Development Corporations, Block Clubs, Environmental Clubs, and other neighborhood organizations from across the city, in projects intentionally located on both sides of town, that highlight and supplement the work they are currently doing at the neighborhood level. The projects will also complement the operations the City divisions such as the Division of Waste Collection, the Division of Street Maintenance, and the Division of Park Maintenance. Local organizations, the neighborhoods in which they are based, and the entire city of Cleveland will be impacted.

Collection, Processing and Diversion Rate

Explain the materials sources, method of collection, how the material will be processed, and the processing capabilities built into your project to handle the material. Provide an estimated

diversion rate and the amount of materials that will be diverted from landfill for recycling. Include the primary end market for the materials.

We anticipate collected materials to originate from the materials provided by event coordinators who utilize Public Auditorium as well as venue's caterer, Levy, through event meals or concessions. We will indirectly be collecting these through the dual-stream receptacles—not requiring staff to supervise collection and providing attendees a simple way to recycle is the optimal use of grant resources. The City's Division of Waste Collection regularly services Public Auditorium for waste and will now also collect recyclables, allowing for the transfer and processing of these materials at Rumpke facilities in Ohio. Seeing as 100% of materials used in Public Auditorium events are directed to the landfill, a diversion of 50-75% of these materials would be a significant improvement.

The company that will be facilitating the City's residential compost initiative, Rust Belt Riders, has over 30 locations city- and county-wide. They are responsible for collection and processing of residential organic food waste. The City's role in this initiative is distribution of household composting pails and enrolling up to 3,000 additional households into Rust Belt Riders' program.

Project Permits

Describe the Ohio EPA permits, licenses, and other documentation required for your project in relation to your project timeline. It is the applicant's responsibility to verify what permits are required.

No additional permits or licenses are required.

Financial Need and Project Commitment

Explain the financial need for requesting grant funds and how funding will support the success of your project. Describe your organization's long-term operational and financial commitment to your project. What type of strategies are in place to continue to support your project without additional and/or future grant funding?

It is important to develop a special venue recycling initiative because while regular waste collection is conducted at Public Auditorium, the City did not establish recycling collection there when the residential program was restored in 2022 and has not been considered in program budgeting. Due to the venue and events being public-facing and variable (meaning different types/volumes of waste), the City's current waste receptacles or residential carts are not sufficient. Thus, funding is needed to purchase the specific dual-stream receptacles we have proposed. Effectiveness of this project will be considered in coming years to potentially expand the number of receptacles within Public Auditorium and/or additional City facilities through future budget proposals or alternate external funding.

The residential composting pilot is a unique program of which the City of Cleveland is a first-time partner/sponsor. Aside from establishing the new drop off sites and related costs, USDA Compost and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) grant funding was not designated for incentivizing residents to engage in composting. While it is possible for households to engage in composting independently, we are aware of the confusion or disinterest that comes with launching new public programs. Providing compost bins and liners will help ensure ongoing signups and participation in residential composting. The feedback, data, and effectiveness of the composting program and new sites will impact future City engagement with the program and the potential of ongoing incentivizing and potential subsidization of the composting services for residents.

Until now, community engagement efforts between the City and local groups and organizations have not had designated funding or structure. Thus, creating a Keep Cleveland Beautiful affiliate has not been a citywide budget consideration. However, necessary legislation will be put in place to certify and establish KCB, including a board/commission. This commission, as required by KAB President's Circle, will have the ability to accept donations into a KCB fund as well as apply for and accept grants through KAB or otherwise. As the affiliate develops and potentially expands, departmental funding may be designated for capital needs or services.

Recycling Trends and Waste Challenges

Explain the recycling trends and waste challenges impacting your community or organization and how your project addresses these issues.

The City of Cleveland is challenged by both recycling contamination and program participation. The City's initial program was universal and did not prioritize outreach and education. As a result, a 2021 study commissioned by the City found that 62% of what was being recycled was actually trash. The opt-in program, since 2022, allows households to recycle at no additional cost once they have received a sticker for their can denoting participation. The first year of the program saw a significant reduction in contamination—only 15%—with about 25,000 participants. However, as participation has grown to more than 75,000 households, contamination has risen to about 25%. What is needed to reverse this trend of increased contamination as participation rises is resident engagement and education. Frustration expressed by residents is typically regarding their confusion of the process – what can actually be recycled, and how? By demonstrating the City's commitment to continually improving sustainability practices while providing simple means for communities to get involved, introducing recycling within the Public Auditorium venue can be a gateway to balancing more participation and less contamination.

There have not previously been citywide efforts to encourage or facilitate food waste composting. Much of what residents throw away can be composted and not only diverted from landfills, but also turned into nutrient rich soil. Though composting can be quite simple once individuals are involved, it can be difficult to stir up enthusiasm and understanding of its importance. The City has struggled with sustainability messaging not reaching certain communities, so there will be efforts to attend events in every Cleveland Ward to register residents in the compost drop-off initiative.

Regional Waste and/or Organization Sustainability Planning

State how the proposed project supports the strategic and educational goals of the local and state solid waste management plans. Also include any regional or organizational sustainability/waste reduction goals that this project would support. We encourage you to reach out to your local solid waste district if you aren't familiar with their programs. State solid waste district contacts and examples of addressing local and state solid waste plans can be found below.

Cuyahoga County's Solid Waste Management Plan, and Ohio's SWMP more broadly, emphasize a commitment to reducing landfill dependency, regulating solid waste disposal, and better managing recycling processes from collection to end usage. CCSWD also considers composting to be the "most cost-effective and environmentally beneficial way to manage organic waste." The City has worked alongside CCSWD to further these goals and shares many of the District's education/outreach practices. The District's primary target audience, residents, is the City's key demographic for informational guides, resources, and presentations/campaigns. The work done to connect with and empower residents to reduce their waste and recycle correctly directly impacts solid waste outcomes. Utilizing resources and guidelines from the Solid Waste Management District allows for consistent and reliable

programming and education for residents—something we will continue to do with signage and information dissemination for the Special Venue, Keep America Beautiful, and Organic Material Diversion projects. By being clear and direct with residents we will prepare ourselves for the ideal waste reduction outcome.

Metrics

Explain how the success of your project will be measured and evaluated (e.g. amount of material collected, number of people reached at an event or conference, amount of material reduced, contamination reduced, recycled material versus virgin material, etc.).

Any diversion of recyclable materials away from landfills will be evaluated as a success for the Special Venue Recycling project as there is currently no baseline for comparison. However, a number of indicators will also be tracked in cooperation with waste collection and housekeeping staff. For the grant term, we will measure the collected recyclables from Public Auditorium independent of other collections to create a baseline for weight collected from this venue. This will likely vary month to month as there are more/fewer events at the auditorium. As such, we can track the material metric against the number, type, and attendance of events. These metrics will then serve as a baseline for City facility recycling in the future as the project is potentially expanded.

While the direct collection and conversion of food waste into compost will be conducted by Rust Belt Riders, we will be responsible for the distribution of the OEPA/City sponsored compost bins under the Organic Material Diversion project. Therefore, we will be able to measure the number of households we have had contact with and/or directly enrolled. It will be an opportunity to understand which communities and neighborhoods were more receptive to the initiative, and which may need further engagement and education.

Keep Cleveland Beautiful will be a program that evolves over time as projects form and lessons are learned. As our initial baseline, we will adhere to the Keep America Beautiful President's Circle Criteria. In addition to the organizational requirements of the affiliate Board and Director, the annual report, Community Appearance Index, event reporting, and impact area activities will define KCB's success.

Benefit

Explain how these funds will impact and benefit your community or organization (and markets if applicable). Businesses (Cooperating Enterprises) are required to submit a three-year estimate of future sales and a projected investment payback schedule (ROI) as part of the required financial documents in a separate email. If applicable, please also include a brief summary of the ROI and three-year estimate of future sales.

The City of Cleveland is naturally divided by the Cuyahoga River, bisecting the area into the "East-" and "West-" sides. Residents strongly identify with these geographies which has created smaller cultural pockets and identities. All three project categories aim to touch residents citywide, regardless of the neighborhoods and communities they are a part of. The proposed projects will be managed through the administrative office of the Department of Public Works. The Department is centrally located in Public Auditorium, just east of the river and across from City Hall.

These proposed projects allow the City to take a fresh approach to resident engagement and program participation. Whereas residents are typically tasked with going to the City to meet needs and requests, these projects take practices like recycling, community engagement, and composting to the residents. Residents who attend special events at Public Auditorium will be able to see firsthand that recycling can and does work. Individuals and households who might

be unaware of or previously uninterested in composting will be met with resources and information to help them get started. Local cleanup efforts and block clubs will be connected to a network of residents and volunteers with City support at the center.

With the help of Recycle Ohio grant funding and existing City services, these projects will strengthen relationships with and outreach to residents, while also solidifying the City's commitment to sustainability initiatives. Capturing recyclables from a well-visited event venue, engaging community members in cleanups, and encouraging residential composting all have significant impacts on landfill dependency. Active efforts from the City to reduce multiple streams of waste lend themselves to a decreased carbon footprint. The City's ability to demonstrate waste reduction and environmental progress will reinforce sustainability messaging and practices for all of Cleveland.

Education and Outreach Plan

Describe your plan to educate and communicate with the public to promote your project (e.g. how to engage residents for a recycling contamination reduction project, find volunteers for a river clean-up, promote a new drop off location, educate residents on best ways to dispose of tires, etc.).

Communication with the public (attendees of the venue) will be primarily through indirect means. Signage on the receptacles and around the venue will indicate what materials to recycle, thus providing a direct opportunity to recycle where there previously was not one. We will also be engaging event organizers in the early stages of event-planning by providing the Division of Public Auditorium/Special Events with guidance and sustainability best practices while utilizing the venue. They will be made aware of the Auditorium's new recycling efforts and ways they, and their attendees, can work in tandem with the City on this project.

Alongside our partners, we will make intentional efforts to appear at and engage in community and ward meetings and local sustainability events. It is important to present household composting as a manageable practice and one that everyone, and the environment, can benefit from. It can be a clean and simple habit once individuals understand the process and "dos and don'ts". In turn, this education and provision of compost bins will promote the larger city composting initiative.

We have begun to identify community groups that exist across Cleveland. These groups work on river and beach cleanups, neighborhood cleanups, street beautification & general community engagement. The best way to build a KCB community will be to establish and maintain relationships with these groups and their existing networks. Coordinating resources and volunteers can occur through KCB through a webpage. We can track upcoming events, projects, and cleanups across the City and connect residents to these various groups and resources. Oftentimes the issue is not that individuals don't want to be involved, it's that they don't know how to be involved. An online calendar, signups, and information will streamline communication and ensure that anyone who wants to be involved, knows how.

Committed Partners

List all partnerships involved with your project, including: volunteers and other participants, local businesses, students, donated goods and services, waived tipping fees, time commitment, etc. Describe how these partnerships improve your project. (Reminder: grant or match funds CANNOT be used for salaries, food, travel, or speakers.)

Project 1 Public Auditorium Recycling:

The City divisions of Waste Collection, Property Management, and Public Auditorium/Special Events will be an asset to this project as they have the knowledge and skills to implement our project design and ensure that it is an operation that can be continued beyond the life of the grant.

Partnership with the Cavaliers/Charge's new VP of Sustainability and Environmental Services Danielle Doza will allow for a mutually beneficial exchange of information and sustainability practices, as well as commitment to recycling and waste reduction within the venue throughout the term of the Cleveland Charge partnership.

Project 2 Residential Drop-off Composting:

The Cleveland Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Rust Belt Riders (RBR) are the two groups spearheading the USDA grant-funded residential composting pilot. RBR is an established compost service provider throughout the county and retains much of the educational expertise needed to share with residents. The Office of Sustainability will be able to provide support and connections to other local organizations as we conduct outreach. The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District is an additional partner. They are providing composting education to community members who will serve as Ambassadors for the program. RBR and the trained ambassadors will assist in disseminating pails, lids, liners, and information to residents.

Acknowledge Funding Source

Ohio EPA requires you to acknowledge the grant program's participation in your project. How will you incorporate this? (For example, Recycle Ohio logo on all equipment purchased with grant funds, advertisements for litter collection events, signage for scrap tire-related projects, etc.).

We will integrate the Recycle Ohio Grant logo into all project categories as acknowledgement of their funding support. It will be included on the waste receptacle posters in Public Auditorium for Special Venue Recycling, in the branding for compost bins purchased under the Organic Material Diversion project, and in literature and signage we produce for Keep Cleveland Beautiful.

Attachment Certification

Attachments are required.

I, the undersigned hereby certify the following for this application.

- The facility site details and construction drawings are attached.
- The manufacturing specifications and quotes for equipment purchases are attached.

Authorized Signature

The applicant is at least 18 years old.

SUBMITTAL AUTHORIZATION: I hereby certify that I am authorized by my designated position to submit this Recycle Ohio Grant Application on behalf of the applicant identified above, that the information is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that it represents the information to be used to determine the potential funding of the grant proposal.



Orensel D. Brumfield
Project Coordinator

12/06/2024
Signature Date